CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

forming an access unit comprising a fragment update, the fragment update comprising a fragment update command; and

forming an encoded data stream from the access unit.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update command is selected from the group consisting of add, delete, change, and reset commands.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update command is formed by including a value in the access unit.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update command comprises a fragment reference wherein the fragment reference is a pointer to a fragment containing data to be used by the fragment update command.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the referenced fragment is designated by a uniform resource identifier (URI).

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the reference is in XPath.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the fragment is in a first node.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are the same node.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the fragment reference is in a second node and the first node and the second node are different nodes.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the first node and the second node are in a Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG) description.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining if a multimedia description corresponding to the access unit is based has changed;

identifying a changed portion of the multimedia description and a corresponding access unit; and

forming the fragment update command to correspond to the changed portion of the multimedia description.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

associating the access unit with a partial description.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the partial description comprises an instance of a descriptor.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

associating the access unit with a reset point that contains a fragment that forms a complete description.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

referencing a fragment wherein the fragment is stored on a different system than a system performing the method of claim 1.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and further comprising:

transmitting the encoded data stream while the description is static.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the access unit corresponds to a description, and further comprising:

transmitting the encoded data stream while the description is dynamic.

20. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

transmitting a data for decoding from an encoder to a decoder.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the data include schemas defining a description data to be transmitted.

22. A method comprising:

receiving an access unit comprising a fragment update, wherein the fragment update comprises a command and a first fragment reference, and wherein the first fragment reference is a pointer to a first referenced fragment in a first node and contains data to be used by the command.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the first referenced fragment is a partial description.

24. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

comparing the first referenced fragment to a stored fragment; and

obtaining the stored fragment if the stored fragment is the first referenced fragment.

25. The method of claim 22 wherein the first fragment reference is in hyper-text transfer protocol (HTTP).

26. The method of claim 22 wherein the access unit is a part of a Moving Picture Expert Group (MPEG) description.

27. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

identifying a second node which the command affects; and

identifying a second fragment reference which the first fragment reference points to, wherein the second fragment reference points to the first referenced fragment.

28. The method of claim 22 wherein the fragment update further comprises a payload.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, further comprising:

replacing the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to the second referenced fragment.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein the second fragment reference points to a second referenced fragment within the first node, further comprising:

replacing the first fragment reference with a third fragment reference pointing to a third referenced fragment within the second node.